

PROPOSED VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS
OF THE GENERIC NAME "EURYRHYNCHUS" MIERS,
1877 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)

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In carcinological literature the generic name *Euryrhynchus* Miers, 1877 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1877 : 662) (type species, by monotypy : *Euryrhynchus wrzesniewskii* Miers, 1877, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1877 : 662) has been used to indicate a small genus of fresh water shrimps inhabiting Northern Brazil and the three Guianas. Of this genus only two species are known and not more than ten authors have dealt with it seriously. Nevertheless, it is rather important, since it is the type genus of the subfamily EURYRHYNCHINAE belonging to the family PALAEMONIDAE. The name *Euryrhynchus* is the only generic name ever employed for the genus and the present spelling has been adopted by all authors, though Von Martens, 1879 (*Zool. Rec.* 14 Crust. : 21) in writing the name as *Eury[r]hynchus* showed his preference for having it written with two r's after the first y.

In 1829 the name *Euryrhynchus* was given by Nitzsch (1829, *Obs. Avium. Art. carot. comm.* : 18) as an intentional or unintentional substitute for the generic name *Eurynorhynchus* Nilsson (1821, *Ornit. suec.* 2(1) : 29) (type species, by monotypy : *Platalea pygmaea* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 140) to a genus of birds. Dr. G. C. A. Junge, curator of birds of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, was so kind to inform me that the generic name *Euryrhynchus* Nilsson at present still is commonly used in ornithological literature and that the name *Euryrhynchus* Nitzsch seems not to have been used except by Nitzsch in his anatomical publication. So, for instance, Peters, 1934 (*Check-List of Birds of the World* 2 : 282) does not even cite the name *Euryrhynchus* under *Eurynorhynchus*. Unfortunately I have not had the opportunity to examine Nitzsch's book, but it seems very probable that his name *Euryrhynchus* is nothing but a clerical error for *Eurynorhynchus* ; Ridgway, 1919 (*Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 50(8) : 303), however, clearly indicates *Euryrhynchus* Nitzsch as an emendation of *Eurynorhynchus* Nilsson.

During the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology it was decided that the principles which are to be observed in interpreting Article 34 of the *Règles* and which are laid down in *Opinion* 148, should be inserted in the *Règles* (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 (7/9) : 163). According to these principles "a generic name is to be rejected as a homonym, where the word of which that name consists has previously been published as an emendation, whether valid or invalid, of another generic name". It is clear therefore that in the present case the generic name *Euryrhynchus* Miers, 1877, is invalidated by the name *Euryrhynchus* Nitzsch, 1829.

In my opinion it is highly desirable that the generic name *Euryrhynchus* Miers, 1877, be preserved, since it has been accepted by all authors dealing

with this genus and so has been unchallenged during the 74 years of its existence. On the other hand the name *Euryrhynchus* Nitzsch, which probably was created by error or by carelessness, almost certainly has been used by its original author only. I accordingly recommend that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

(1) use its plenary powers :—

(a) to suppress the generic name *Euryrhynchus* Nitzsch, 1829 (an invalid emendation of *Eurynorhynchus* Nilsson, 1821), for the purposes of the Law of Priority and for those of the Law of Homonymy, and

(b) to validate the generic name *Euryrhynchus* Miers, 1877 ;

(2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Euryrhynchus* Miers, 1877 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Euryrhynchus wrzesniowskii* Miers, 1877), as validated under (1)(b) above ;

(3) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Euryrhynchus* Nitzsch, 1829 as suppressed under (1)(a) above ;

(4) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *wrzesniowskii* Miers, 1877 (as published in the binominal combination *Euryrhynchus wrzesniowskii*) (trivial name of type species of *Euryrhynchus* Miers, 1877.)